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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control system for measuring a gap in an apparatus for pressing a traveling paper web as the paper web travels through the gap accompanied by at least one belt or felt, the apparatus including a press apparatus and a support surface defining a gap therebetween. A frame is provided for moveably supporting the press apparatus. An actuator is operatively disposed between the frame and press apparatus for selectively moving the press apparatus toward and away from the support to control the gap size. A transducer is mounted in either the press apparatus or support for producing a signal indicative of the pressure on the paper web as the paper web, belt and felt pass through the gap beneath the transducer. A controller is operatively linked with the transducer for receiving the signal, determining the measure of the gap as a function of the pressure, and causing the actuator to selectively move the press apparatus to control the gap size.